

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **USA Funds Designated as Official State Guarantor For Student Loans**

(Jackson, MS) – At a ceremony today in Tupelo, Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed an executive order designating United States Aid Funds as the official guarantor of student loans in Mississippi. The company, commonly known as USA Funds, will guarantee loans made through the state's universities and community and junior colleges.

“The loans that go out to students help them pay for schooling, but I also see them as an investment in our collective future,” said Musgrove. “We’ve been negotiating with USA Funds for the past two years to establish a relationship that would benefit us both, and I’m proud to say those negotiations have been very successful.”

USA Funds will subcontract with Sallie Mae to manage defaulted loans. Sallie Mae, in turn, will subcontract with Franklin Collection Service to collect the actual payments on defaulted loans. The result of this partnership will be 50 new jobs in the Tupelo area, and Franklin broke ground today to expand their facility to accommodate the new employees.

Additional jobs are also expected to be created through subcontracted services in the Delta area.

“This is a great partnership, both in how it meets the needs of the state and our students, and in the creation of jobs,” Musgrove said. “Together, we will move closer to our promise and potential.”

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